

What is claimed is:

1.

A mower cleaning tool comprising:
an elongated handle having opposite ends and a longitudinal axis; and
a cleaning blade member attached to one of the ends of the handle, the blade member including a shaft portion extending longitudinally from the handle and a scraping blade portion attached to the shaft portion and diverging outwardly in a radial direction therefrom;
the handle having a length sufficient to extend the cleaning blade completely across a mower deck to effectively clean the same without turning the mower deck over and without requiring an operator to bring a hand within close proximity to a mower blade.

2.

The tool of claim 1 wherein the scraping blade portion has a sharpened leading edge adapted to scrape debris from a mower deck, the sharpened leading edge being directed generally away from the handle.

3.

The tool of claim 2 wherein the scraping blade portion extends at an angle of approximately twenty degrees with respect to the shaft portion.

4.

The tool of claim 2 wherein the scraping blade portion is a substantially flat rigid plate having a length extending longitudinally with respect to the handle and a width extending transversely with respect to the handle, the width of the plate being approximately equal to the length of the plate and substantially wider than the handle.

5.

The tool of claim 2 wherein the scraping blade portion has a sharpened trailing edge directed generally toward the handle.

6.

The tool of claim 5 wherein the scraping blade portion extends at an angle of approximately ninety degrees with respect to the shaft portion.

7.

The tool of claim 5 wherein the scraping blade portion comprises a strip of rigid material including a first leg attached to the shaft portion of the blade member and a second leg attached to and extending perpendicular to the first leg.

8.

The tool of claim 7 wherein both the first leg and the second leg are offset from and have at least one dimension that extends parallel to the longitudinal axis of the handle, the first leg being vertically disposed when the handle and the second leg are both disposed horizontally.

9.

The tool of claim 8 wherein the second leg is elongated and includes a length extending transverse to the longitudinal axis of the handle and a width that extends parallel to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

10.

The tool of claim 8 wherein the first leg is elongated and includes a length extending transverse to the longitudinal axis of the handle and a width that extends parallel to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

11.

The tool of claim 7 wherein the strip of material bends at the intersection of the first leg and the second leg so as to define a radius of curvature in a plane that bisects both the first leg and the second leg.

12.

The tool of claim 1 wherein the shaft portion is coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the handle.

13.

A mower cleaning tool for a mower having a mower deck of a given maximum dimension thereacross, the tool comprising: an elongated handle having opposite ends, a longitudinal axis, and a length greater than the maximum dimension of the mower deck to be cleaned; and an angled cleaning blade member attached to one of the ends of the handle, the blade member including a shank portion extending longitudinally from the handle and a scraping blade portion attached to the shank portion and diverging therefrom in a radial direction.

14.

A mower cleaning tool for a mower having a rotatable mower blade with a given radius of rotation comprising: an elongated handle having opposite ends and a longitudinal axis; and a cleaning blade member attached to one of the ends of the handle, the blade member including a shaft portion extending longitudinally from the handle and a scraping blade portion attached to the shaft portion and diverging outwardly in a radial direction therefrom; the handle having a length greater than the radius of the mower blade so as to allow an operator to effectively

clean the mower deck without requiring an operator to bring a hand within close proximity to a mower blade.